



# GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY ADVISORY BOARD

## Agriculture Working Group

**DRAFT**

Economic Recovery Advisory Board  
Working Group Weekly Progress Report

Please submit your report to [Joel Anderson](#) each Friday by 1:00 p.m. for distribution to the Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

Working Group: **Agriculture**

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Co-Chairs: Sec. Mike Naig [Michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Michael.naig@iowaagriculture.gov) ; Diane Young [dyoungiddp@gmail.com](mailto:dyoungiddp@gmail.com) ; Nick Bowdish [nick@nbowdishcompany.com](mailto:nick@nbowdishcompany.com)

Date: July 24, 2020

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### Working Group accomplishments/progress since last submitted report:

- Continued to build out Working Group Member list. See final page of this report for most up-to-date membership.
- Co-chairs have collected feedback on challenges, policy ideas, and concepts from all working group members. Their comments serve as a foundation for stakeholder conversations.
- Co-chairs have collected responses to foundational questions on goals, policy ideas, challenges, etc. from each Working Group member.
- Stakeholder interviews/input sessions are underway. 13 have been conducted so far, in addition to several informal feedback conversations. Groups representing crop and livestock producers, agribusinesses, and startups are among the first to be interviewed.
- The Working Group updated its timeline for the formation of ad hoc groups to allow more time for idea and feedback collection from stakeholders.

**Working Group's current areas of focus, research, or activity. Also report any obstacles or issues:**



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## Agriculture Working Group

Collecting stakeholder outreach and scheduling interviews. 13 stakeholder discussions have been conducted to-date with several dozen more underway.

The working group also continues to collect suggestions for those who should be interviewed as a part of the information gathering phase before policy recommendation brainstorming/drafting is initiated.

The working group has consolidated a list of "Emerging Themes" (not in priority order). This emerging themes list is reflective of topical areas recurrently covered by stakeholders. As interviews continue, this list will be updated.

1. Financial Stress and Grower Financial Viability, Capital Access, Credit Risk for Suppliers
2. Iowa Ag Brand – Promotion and Differentiation / Connectivity and Trust with Consumers / Attracting Infrastructure Investment
3. Product and Market Diversification, Technology for Alternative Crops and New Utilization, Corn Supply/Demand Balance
4. Export Market Access / Market Development
5. Concentration at the Farm and Processing levels
6. Supply Chain: Disruption, Supply/Demand Balance, Transportation, Post Covid Changes, Energy Costs and Access, Pipelines
7. Biofuels Policy / Infrastructure / Industry Direction
8. Workforce: Availability and Safety / Training / Automation / Diversity / Recruitment
9. Rural Community Viability – Social, Financial, Infrastructure (broadband, roads, other)
10. Water / Environmental Stewardship / New upside opportunities (sequestration, etc.)
11. Research and Development / Support for Universities and Extension

### Working Group goals and actions for the coming week or weeks:

See the last page of this document for a draft timeline – subject to change.

Several stakeholder input sessions will be held early next week.

The Working Group made good progress on getting Member feedback on what has been said by stakeholders during conversations thus far. This ideation phase will continue as we head into the formation of ad hoc groups around August 10. These groups will drill deeper into specific themes (see above) as they formulate action items/recommendations/policies for consideration by the broader group.

Progress toward next meeting's milestone: ☐ Ahead of Schedule | ☒ On Schedule | ☐ Behind Schedule



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## Agriculture Working Group

Comments on progress or additional information to share with the advisory board (optional):

### Agriculture Working Group:

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## Agriculture Working Group

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## Current Action Item Timeline

<del>First Work Group Meeting</del>	<del>July 9</del>
<del>Approval of Work Plan by Working Group (subject to future change)</del>	<del>July 9</del>
<del>Development of initial input target list, schedule and begin input sessions</del>	<del>July 14</del>
<del>Progress update and input sharing status with Working Group</del>	<del>July 22</del>
Formation of ad hoc work groups (as needed)	<del>July 23</del> August 10
Completion of input gathering process	Sept. 11
Preparation of interim summary and recommendations	Sept. 18
Drafting process of Final Report and Recommendations	Sept. 23
Review / Approval of Final Report	Sept. 29
Submission of Final Report and Recommendations to Task Force	October 1

